

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /108 W
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O R 172158Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6536
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USOECD

USMTN ALSO FOR USMISSION

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, ETRD, ELAB
SUBJECT: CALL BY PRESIDENT OF U.S. STEELWORKERS ON
OECD SECRETARY GENERAL

1. PRIOR TO MEETING OF TUAC REPS WITH THE AD HOC STEEL
GROUP (SEPTTEL), LLOYD MCBRIDE, PRESIDENT OF UNITED
STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, CALLED ON VAN LENNEP. (MCBRIDE
WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEAN CLOWES, DIRECTOR OF INTERNA-
TIONAL AFFAIRS, UNITED STEELWORKERS, AND JACK
SHEEHAN, DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, UNITED
STEELWORKERS, AND BY HERMAN REHBAN, SECRETARY GENERAL
OF INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION.) AFTER
CITING PROBLEMS OF U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY, NOTING THAT
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FORMS OF PROTECTIONISM WERE PROLIFERATING AROUND THE
WORLD, AND THAT POWERFUL COALITION WAS FORMING IN
U.S. CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTION FOR U.S.
INDUSTRIES UNDER PRESSURE (NOT ONLY STEEL, BUT ALSO
SHOES, ELECTRONICS, TEXTILES, ETC.), MCBRIDE AND
SHEEHAN ARGUED THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION WAS
REQUIRED.

2. SHEEHAN PARTICULARLY URGED COMBINATION OF AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES IN OECD WITH SECTORAL UNDERSTANDING IN GATT. SHEEHAN WAS NOT VERY PRECISE ON FORMS SUCH GATT UNDERSTANDING WOULD TAKE, BUT HE WAS ATTRACTED BY THE CONCEPT THAT THE GATT FORUM WOULD PROVIDE "ENFORCEABILITY." HE SEEMED TO BE ADVOCATING CONCEPT OF SAFEGUARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES OR, ALTERNATIVELY, A PROCESS WHEREBY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF STEEL WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAFTING SPECIAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS. MCBRIDE HIMSELF SEEMED NOT TO BE COMMITTED TO ANY PARTICULAR COURSE OF ACTION. HE SAID HE WAS LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROCESS THAN ABOUT EFFECTS. WHILE THERE WAS NO ASSURANCE ANY PARTICULAR FORUM COULD HELP, MCBRIDE FELT POSSIBILITIES SUCH AS GATT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

3. VAN LENNEP SAID HE AGREED WITH NEED FOR MULTILATERAL LOOK AT PROBLEM. HE THOUGHT NEED WAS FOR SPECIAL UNDERSTANDINGS DURING PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, MANY OF WHICH WERE CYCLICAL AND TEMPORARY IN NATURE, RATHER THAN FOR ESTABLISHING SPECIAL GATT RULES FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES.

4. U.S. LABOR OFFICIALS MADE NO MENTION TO VAN LENNEP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE, WHICH MCBRIDE (AS SPOKESMAN FOR INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION) STRESSED IN MEETING WITH AD HOC STEEL GROUP.
KATZ

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